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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 760  
LR 167-174

CLERK: I do, Mr. President. Thank you. Hearing notice from Natural Resources, a confirmation hearing notice. Study resolutions: LR 167, by Revenue Committee; LR 168, LR 169, LR 170, LR 171, LR 172 by Senator Brashear; Senator Erdman, LR 173; Senator Johnson, LR 174. All of those will be referred to the Executive Board. (Legislative Journal pages 1852-1857.)

Mr. President, the next bill for consideration is LB 760. It's a bill originally introduced by Senator Brashear. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 22. At that time it was referred to the Judiciary Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have Judiciary Committee amendments. (AM1586, Legislative Journal page 1485.)

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Brashear to open on LB 760.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, this has been quite a day so far. I have been listening. I heard Senator Loudon's reference to...as a time reference, a time since man made a mule. Which has a lot of wisdom, if you think about it. Then there's the jam on the higher shelf, which is pictorial and says something. Then Senator Cudaback talked to us about sitting down, belting ourselves in. And I didn't know if that was with or without a helmet. And an opening became a closing. (Laugh) So it's an interesting day. LB 760, as your Judiciary Committee has amended it, makes a number of changes with regard to judicial administration. A common theme throughout these bills is the use of court fees and court administration. I want to pause to express real appreciation to Senator Mines for prioritizing this bill. I think the subject matter is helpful. And I can forecast for you...and I'm not trying to be funny...that this both deals with relief of the General Fund, and relief of property taxes. And I'll explain. Here we're talking about use of filing fees. And using filing fees is what falls into the general category of a user fee. In other words, the people who are using the court system are paying for the...or, helping pay for the court system. That has a certain rationale to it. It has a certain political appeal. But it has to be balanced in terms of keeping our courts of high quality, but keeping them accessible to the people who need and use them. That is our place for justice. I'm going to